

Beginning Farmer News - Tune in this June for beginning farmer events + Field day season is finally here

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June 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Meet Trent and Mitch of BA Family Farms



Trent Butler and Mitch Anderson are in their second year owning and operating **BA Family Farms**, a 5-acre farm in Indianola where they raise pastured poultry for meat and eggs, bees and produce with a focus on regenerative agriculture. They've also expanded their operation to include value-added products like baked goods and preserves. They sell their farm products directly to consumers at the Indianola Downtown Farmers Market and the Indianola Fairgrounds Farmers Market.

PFI asked: What was your first step in finding your customer base?

Trent and Mitch: "The first step was knowing our personal strengths. We're good with in-person communication and savvy with technology. We get to utilize our in-person communication as a vendor at our local farmers market.

There, we have open conversations with folks about where their food came from and the benefits our farm offers.

We also post about our farm on local group's social media channels. After we established some interest, we mostly used social media to communicate with our customers. It's been a free way to keep folks up to date with when our birds will be available, any in-person markets we'll be selling, past customer reviews, and more

PROGRAM UPDATES

Field day season is here!



All **PFI field days** are **free for anyone to attend**, membership in PFI is not required or expected. Our goal is simple: We want farmers to visit and learn from one another.

Not a farmer? That's okay, you're invited too! If you're an eater, consumer, researcher, friend-of-farmer, policymaker, neighbor or simply curious to learn about agriculture – everyone has a role to play in supporting resilient farms and communities.

Discover a field day that ignites your curiosity and register today.

Building Resilient Farms Through Connection and Support



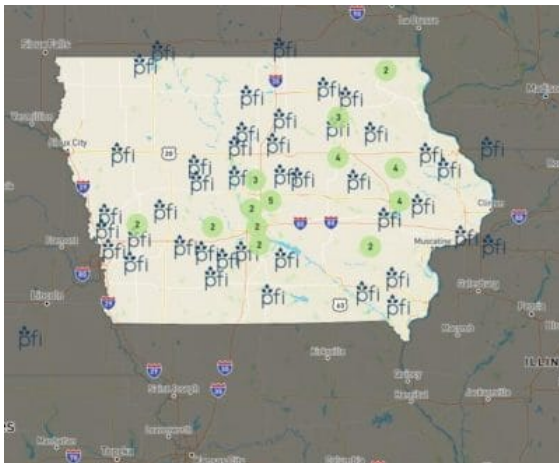
Through the PFI network, farmers are connecting and finding support as they build resilient farms.

Now through the end of June, we're raising \$50,000 to help continue this work.

Your gift empowers farmers to improve their operations. In 2023, PFI held 218 events attended by 5,166 individuals. Plus, 79% of participants in PFI's farmer-led education reported improving their farms.

Give now.

List your farm on PFI's new and improved local foods directory



PFI's local foods directory is now part of MarketMaker's nationwide food system network. Use it to find PFI member farmers, businesses and organizations who offer local foods near you.

Current PFI member farmers, businesses and organizations can be listed for free in the PFI local foods directory. You'll need to create a MarketMaker account even if you were listed in our previous directory. Learn **how to sign up** and get listed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field day: "Hands-on Field Day at Garden Oasis Farm"



**Sunday, Jun. 30 | 9 a.m.-Noon |
Coggon, IA**

T.D. & Sarah Holub started farming vegetables at Garden Oasis Farm in 2013 on a half-acre. Now, their farm is a 10-acre operation that includes high tunnels and greenhouses.

At this field day, you'll have a chance to learn about and test a variety of hand tools, gain in-depth experience with transplanting crops and more.

Due to the hands-on nature of this event, attendance is limited and registration is required.

Field day: "Growing, Processing, and Marketing Potatoes and Onions for Wholesale Outlets"



Wednesday, Jul. 10 | 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Fertile, IA

Kittleson Brothers, owned by **Steve Rachut**, grows 30-plus acres each of onions and potatoes. Steve's uncle, **Ron Rachut**, grows at nearby Fertile Valley Gardens.

This field day will visit two sites and discuss enterprise scale, production, handling, packing and marketing for wholesale. **RSVP**

This event will be presented in English with Spanish interpretation available.

Field day: "Communicating Cuts Workshop: From Carcass to Consumer"



**Saturday, Jul. 13 | 9 a.m.-3 p.m. |
Spring Grove, MN**

Join as **Cecka Parks**, of the Minneapolis Meat Collective, breaks down half a lamb, explains how the cuts relate to each other and shares basic rules of thumb for cooking.

Then learn food photography from **Tiffany Alexandria** of Choochoo-ca-Chew as she teaches how to photograph meat with your phone for marketing.

Due to the hands-on nature of this event, attendance is limited and registration is required.

[View our events calendar](#)

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed are in Central time.

June 19: Field Day – A Legacy of Stewardship: Using Cover Crops, Biochar, and Nature for Sustainable Agriculture

*Hosted by: Rob Stout
4 -6 p.m. | Washington, IA*

June 20: Field Day – Raising Sheep for Wool

*Hosted by: Stacy & Kevin Dresow
Dresow Family Farm
4 -6 p.m. | Lonsdale, MN*

June 23: Field Day – Cultivating an Experience: Engaging Through Agritourism, Marketing, and Production at Rose Farm

*Hosted by: Karri & Patrick Rose |
Rose Farm
3 -5 p.m. | Norwalk, IA*

June 28: Field Day – Creating Resiliency Through Diversity with Crops and Livestock

*Hosted by: Kevin Wagner & family,
KC Stock and Crop LLC
10 a.m.-Noon | Cuba City, WI*

June 30: Workshop – Agriculture Supporting Community: Cultivating Food, Habitat, and Leaders at Mustard Seed Community Farm

*Hosted by: Alice McGary
Mustard Seed Community Farm*

3-5 p.m | Ames, IA

Friends of PFI events

June 15: Field Day – Mossy Cup Farms Field Day

Hosted by: *Healthy Harvest of Northern Iowa*
2-4 p.m. | Clear Lake, IA

June 17: Webinar – Farm Tax Record-Keeping Practices: Prepare for Next Year

Hosted by: *Penn State Extension*
11 a.m.- Noon | **Online**

June 24: Webinar – Farm Tax Income: Special Rules Apply

Hosted by: *Penn State Extension*
11 a.m.- Noon | **Online**

June 26: Field Day – Starting a Commercial Sheep Farm from Scratch

Hosted by: *Sand County Foundation*
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | Mineral Point, WI

June 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15: Webinar – Market Ready Series

Hosted by: *Center for Rural Affairs*
1-2 p.m. | **Online**

June 27: Pasture Walk – Integrating Crops and Livestock Pasture Walk

Hosted by: *The Land Connection*
10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Danforth, IL

View our events calendar

Contact our team

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